I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Attorney Docket No.: 168698-033100US

Client Ref. No.: E6229-01 ER

RECEIVED CENTRAL FAX CENTER

JAN 2 1 2004

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On January 21, 2004

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Monique M. Butler

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Tomio Iwasaki

Application No.: 09/943,843

Filed: August 30, 2001

For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE

SAME

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 2145

Examiner:

George R. Fourson III

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2823

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the

following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.